

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A coupler (16) for coupling an end of a wiper arm (12) to a windscreen wiper (14) having a resiliently flexible elongate beam (18) which is curved in a plane, comprising

a support structure (23); and

a mounting means (24.1, 24.2) for mounting the support structure to the beam;

characterized therein that the coupler has at least one spacing formation (26.1, 26.2) carried by the support structure, engageable in use with an upper surface of the beam at a contact point, for spacing the contact point~~upper surface~~ of the beam a predetermined distance from the support structure.

2. (Original) The coupler as claimed in Claim 1, characterized therein that at least one spacing formation comprises a fulcrum formation which permits, in use, bending movement of the beam about the formation in the plane of curvature.

3. (Previously Presented) The coupler as claimed in Claim 1, characterized therein that there are a pair of spaced spacing formations.

4. (Original) The coupler as claimed in Claim 3, characterized therein that the support structure has an elongate, substantially planar base (22), with the spacing formations being defined on a bottom surface of the base.

5. (Original) The coupler as claimed in Claim 4, characterized therein that each spacing formation comprises an elongate protrusion located transversely to the base and, in use, transversely to the plane of curvature of the beam.

6. (Original) The coupler as claimed in Claim 4, characterized therein that the mounting means comprises two pairs of spaced apart claws (24.1, 24.2) which extend from the base.

7. (Original) The coupler as claimed in Claim 6, characterized therein that each of the spacing formations is aligned with one of the pairs of claws.

8. (Currently Amended) The coupler as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized therein that it has a connecting structure (34) for pivotal connection to the wiper arm.

9. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper assembly (10) which includes a windscreen wiper (14) having a resiliently flexible elongate beam (18) which is curved in a plane and a coupler (16) ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims engaged therewith~~ said assembly comprising:
a support structure (23);

a mounting means (24.1, 24.2) for mounting the support structure to the beam; and
at least one spacing formation (26.1, 26.2) carried by the support structure, engageable in use
with an upper surface of the beam at a contact point, for spacing the contact point of the beam a
predetermined distance from the support structure.

10. (Currently Amended) The windscreen wiper assembly as claimed in Claim 9, characterized therein that the spacing between the contact point~~upper surface~~ of the beam and the support structure is sufficient to permit flexing, in use, of the beam.

11. (Currently Amended) The windscreen wiper assembly as claimed in Claim 9, in which the support structure of the coupler is as claimed in Claim 6, has an elongate, substantially planar base (22), with the spacing formations being defined on a bottom surface of the base, and wherein the mounting means comprises two pairs of spaced apart claws (24.1, 24.2) which extend from the base, and characterized therein that the spacing between the claws of each pair is substantially equal to the width of the beam at that position.

12. (Original) The windscreen wiper assembly as claimed in Claim 9, characterized therein that the beam has a securing formation (48) for securing the support structure to the beam in a manner to inhibit longitudinal movement of the beam relative to the coupler at that position.

13. (Previously Presented) The coupler as claimed in claim 2, characterized therein that there are a pair of spaced spacing formations.